

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 05699

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR CB

SUBJECT: KHMER FORMER MINISTER'S ARTICLE ON CAMBODIAN
SOLUTION

1. FORMER KHMER DEFENSE MINISTER AND SIHANOUK SUPPORTER
GENERAL NHIEK TIOULONG RECENTLY SUBMITTED ARTICLE TO
INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE WHICH WAS TRANSLATED AND
PUBLISHED MARCH 5. TIOULONG PROVIDES LITTLE NEW ON THE
CAMBODIAN SITUATION AND HIS ONLY PRESCRIPTION IS IMPLE-
MENTATION OF THE "CAMBODIAN POLITICAL SOLUTION" ENVIS-
AGED AT MARTINIQUE. THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF
"NEGOTIATIONS;" SIHANOUK AS CHIEF OF STATE MUST
RETURN TO CAMBODIA AND FORM A BROAD NATIONAL UNITY
GOVERNMENT. THE CURRENT GKR MUST BE DISSOLVED AND THOSE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 1970 COUP ELIMINATED. ONCE THIS IS
ACCOMPLISHED, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MOVE RAPIDLY
TOWARDS A SOLUTION OF THE CRISIS. THIS SCENARIO CANNOT
BE ACCOMPLISHED BY KHMER ACTORS ALONE; IT IS A "MULTI-
NATIONAL CO-PRODUCTION."

2. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, TIOULONG IS AN OLD
POLITICAL COLLABORATOR AND FRIEND OF SIHANOUK, WHOSE SON
MARRIED ONE OF TIOULONG'S DAUGHTERS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT
THE DAUGHTER IS NOW LIVING IN PARIS (SIHANOUK'S SON IS
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IN PEKING) AND HAS BEEN HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH ANOTHER

CAMBODIAN. DESPITE THE FAMILY PROBLEMS, TIOULONG REMAINS IN CONTACT WITH SIHANOUK AND THE ROYALISTS IN THE FUNK. HE HAS RECENTLY BEEN MORE ACTIVE IN HIS CONTACTS WITH THE FRENCH.

3. ON MORNING OF MARCH 5, TIOULONG SENT HIS SON-IN-LAW, SAM RAMGSI, WHO SERVES AS A SORT OF "SECRETARY" FOR FOREIGN CONTACTS, TO SEE EMBOFF. RANGSI SAID TIOULONG WISHED TO MAKE SURE US WAS AWARE THAT HIS ARTICLE REPRESENTED ONLY HALF OF HIS THINKING, THE HALF WHICH COULD BE PUBLISHED. TIOULONG WISHES GIVE USG HIS "SECRET" PLANNING DOCUMENT CONCERNING THE INSTALLATION OF A NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT WITH SIHANOUK AS ITS LEADER. TIOULONG CONSIDERED THE REAL STRUGGLE WAS BETWEEN THOSE WHO WERE REAL NATIONALISTS AND HAD A FLEXIBLE POLICY AND THOSE WHO WERE HARDLINE COMMUNISTS WITH A RIGID DOCTRINE AND TIES ABROAD, I.E., TO NORTH VIETNAM. HIS PLAN CALLS FOR THE USE OF THE POSITIVE RESOURCES OF THE GKR (A CLEANSED ADMINISTRATION AND ARMY) AND THOSE OF THE NATIONALISTS IN THE FUNK PLUS THE POSITIVE INFLUENCES OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES, THE US AND PRC IN PARTICULAR.

4. WE EXPECT TIOULONG WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH US AGAIN SOON WITH HIS PLAN.
RUSH

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